

Amendments to the Specification

Please replace the third paragraph on page 1 with the following amended paragraph:

An application or service in a multi-agent system is mapped as a series of calls amongst agents to perform the service. Each agent specifies its type, quantity and quality of service (QoS) in order to provide for an overall application. Since multi-agent systems are implemented in an open environment, no agent has prior knowledge of any other agent. The only knowledge that an agent possesses is its requirements and capabilities to provide a specific type of service. Thus, an agent may be required to find other agents to fulfill certain of its service requirements. A calling agent (referred to herein as a Bid Manager) sends out a ~~bid~~ call for bids for services to a plurality of called agents (referred to herein as Bidders), each of whom may be capable of providing the necessary resources for the Bid Manager to complete its task. The Bid Manager receives and evaluates the bids from the various Bidders and selects the agent which has the best chance of success in performing the requested service. This is referred to herein as selecting the "lowest bid".